

## CLAIMS

1. A mixed metal compound for pharmaceutical use which is free from aluminium and has a phosphate binding capacity of at least 30%, by weight of the total weight of phosphate present, over a pH range of from 2-8.
- 5 2. A mixed metal compound according to claim 1 having a phosphate binding capacity of at least 30%, by weight of the total weight of phosphate present, over a pH range of from 3-7.
3. A mixed metal compound according to claim 1 or claim 2, which is a co-precipitate.
- 10 4. A mixed metal compound according to any preceding claim, wherein the metals are iron(III) and at least one of magnesium, calcium, lanthanum and cerium.
5. A mixed metal compound according to any preceding claim, which contains at least one of hydroxyl and carbonate anions.
- 15 6. A mixed metal compound according to claim 5, which additionally contains at least one of sulphate, chloride and oxide.
7. Use, in a method of preparing a medicament for treatment of hyperphosphataemia, of a mixed metal compound according to any preceding claim.
- 20 8. Use, in a method of preparing a medicament for treatment of hyperphosphataemia, of a metal sulphate material selected from at least one of calcium, lanthanum and cerium sulphate compounds treated with an alkali solution.
9. Use according to claim 8, wherein the alkali is sodium hydroxide.
- 25 10. Use according to claim 9, wherein the metal sulphate is treated with an aqueous sodium hydroxide solution.
11. Use according to any one of claims 8 to 10, wherein the metal sulphate compound is calcium sulphate.

12. A metal sulphate material for pharmaceutical use selected from at least one of calcium, lanthanum and cerium sulphate compounds treated with an aqueous solution of an alkaline hydroxide, which said material comprises a solid material.
- 5 13. A metal sulphate material for pharmaceutical use, which metal sulphate material comprises a solid material selected from at least one of calcium, lanthanum and cerium sulphate compounds and has a phosphate binding capacity of at least 30%, by weight of the total weight of phosphate present, over a pH range of from 2-8.
- 10 14. A method of preparing a metal sulphate material, which method comprises treating a metal sulphate comprising a solid material selected from at least one of calcium, lanthanum and cerium sulphate with an alkali solution.
15. A method according to claim 13, wherein the metal sulphate is calcium sulphate.